

CONSULAR MESSAGE

Subject: Increases to U.S. Passport Fees and New Parental Signature Requirements for U.S. Minors

On February 1, 2008, the U.S. Government increased fees for certain U.S. citizen passport services. The passport renewal fee for most adults increased to \$75. For first time applicants and applicants over 16 whose passports expired more than 5 years ago, the fee increased to \$100. The fee for the replacement of a lost/stolen or mutilated passport for adults increased to \$100. For minors under age 16, the fee increased to \$85.

As of February 1, 2008, passport applicants under the age of 16 must appear personally with their parents to establish identity, proof of citizenship and proof of relationship. Both parents must appear together, or one parent may appear to sign and submit the other parent's notarized statement, or one parent may appear, sign, and submit primary evidence of his or her sole parental authority. Minors age 16 and 17 may apply in person but parental consent may be required by the consular officer.

Please refer to the Department of State's website at www.travel.state.gov for complete information on all new requirements, including downloadable revised forms that must be used as of February 1, and the U.S. Embassy website at <http://athens.usembassy.gov>, for complete U.S. passport application instructions.

Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor these websites. The U.S. Embassy also encourages U.S. citizens to review to "A Safe Trip Abroad," found at http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html, which includes valuable security information for those both living and traveling abroad.

Citizens living and residing in Greece are advised to register their presence in the country through the U.S. Department of State's automated online registration system, <http://travelregistration.state.gov>. U.S. citizens may also contact the Consular Section at the U.S. Embassy via e-mail or by calling 210-720-2494, 2446, fax 210-729-2613.

Contact information for the U.S. Embassy and Consulate in Greece:

The U.S. Embassy in Athens is located at 91 Vasilissis Sophias, Athens, Greece 10160. American Citizens Services: 210-720-2415, 210-720-2419 or 210-720-2420, 210-720-2408, fax. 210-724-5313 or Embassy Tel: 210-721-2951.

The U.S. Consulate General in Thessaloniki is located at 43 Tsimiski, 7th Floor GR-54623 Thessaloniki. American Citizens Services Section 2310-242-905/6/7, ext. 3104. The Internet address is <http://thessaloniki.usconsulate.gov>

In case of an emergency when the Embassy or Consulate General is closed, an American in Greece can call 210-729-4444, and ask to speak to the duty officer.

American Embassy, Athens, Greece